

BOOK REVIEWS

DAVID FROSS and DIETER WILKEN. 2006. **Ceanothus**. (ISBN 0-88192-762-7, 978-0-88192-762-7, hbk.). Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax.). \$39.95, 272 pp., color photos, b/w illustrations, 7" × 9".

As noted on the jacket: "*Ceanothus*, with so many plants that tolerate sun and shade, that thrive in arid conditions and thus conserve water, that bear a profusion of beautiful, fragrant flowers, deserves a book that will bring more of them into gardens and encourage greater appreciation of them in the wild, and this is that book." Plenty of color photos of these spectacular shrubs and small trees. Statements of the geographic ranges are given; the only thing I can think of in improvement of this book, "The Compleat *Ceanothus*," would have been generalized range maps. The text is divided into two substantial and readable sections (chapters in parenthesis):

Ceanothus in the Garden and Landscape

(Natural Distribution; History of Cultivation; Growing *Ceanothus*; Disease and Pests; Cultivar Development; Propagation; *Ceanothus* Species and Cultivars for the Garden and Landscape [94 pages]; and *Ceanothus* Selection Guide).

Ceanothus in the Wild (an evolutionary and taxonomic overview)

(Ecological and Geographic Distribution; Form and Function in *Ceanothus*; *Ceanothus* Species [85 pages, with keys and descriptions]; and Other *Ceanothus* names)

—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4068, U.S.A.

DAVID D. STUART. 2006. **Buddlejas**. (ISBN 0-88192-688-4, 978-0-88192-688-0, hbk.). Royal Horticultural Society Plant Collector Guide. Royal Horticultural Society and Timber Press Inc, 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax.). \$34.95, 192 pp., color photos, 7" × 9".

A guide to the genus *Buddleja*, oriented primarily toward gardeners, with plenty of detailed information. "Buddlejas are the most accomodating and rewarding of garden plants: their acceptance of challenging soil conditions and climate extremes and their resistance to pests (including deer, hares, and rabbits) are legendary." The genus includes about 100 species — the author lists and discusses 58 species of them (noting that he is concerned only with the woody species, vs. the herbaceous perennials). A middle section provides beautiful color photos of most of the 58, along with many of the distinct cultivars of *B. davidii*. The super-hardy *B. davidii* (butterfly bush) is commonly used by breeders because of its abundant and nectar-rich flowers. "The major down side of the species is its ability to colonize inhospitable wasteland sites; the tiny winged seeds, blown far and wide, are capable of germinating wherever they settle, be it old tarmac, rubble, or a crevice high on a wall. During World War II it became known as the bombsite plant in Britain, as it was always the first plant to establish itself after an attack." The North American natives *B. marrubiiifolia* and *B. utahensis* are included in the book but not *B. racemosa*, *B. scordioides*, and *B. sessiliflora*.

Chapter 1. Species

Chapter 2. Hybrids and Cultivars

Chapter 3. Care and Cultivation

Chapter 4. Propagation

Chapter 5. Wildlife Attracted to Buddlejias

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